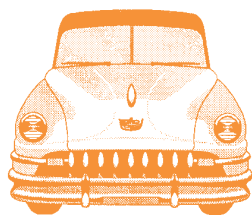


DRIVE SAFELY FOR YOU AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The City of San Diego Household Hazardous Materials Program

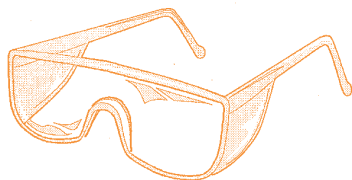
Many people enjoy working on their own car or truck. For some "Do-It Yourselfers," it's a labor of love. For others, it's simply a way to save a few dollars. What many Do-It-Yourselfers may not know is **motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze and batteries are recyclable.**



Knowing this fact as well as a few auto product guidelines can help you safely do the job, protect your family and be a better "home environmentalist."

Be a Smart Consumer

- Keep products in the original container. Children might associate products stored in plastic milk cartons or other containers with food or drinks, which could lead to accidental poisoning. The bright color of antifreeze is attractive to children and pets, and it has a sweet taste. Motor oil with its golden hue could be confused with pancake syrup.
- Store products away from sources of heat like the water heater. Many auto products such as gasoline, aerosol touch-up paints, motor oil and car waxes are easily ignited.
- Store products on a high shelf or in a locked cabinet away from children. If interrupted while working on your vehicle, reseal the product and place it back in the storage area.
- Wear safety goggles, gloves and clothing to protect your eyes and skin. Your car or truck battery contains sulfuric acid (which can cause severe burns) and lead (which is toxic). Gasoline, motor oil, and carburetor cleaners can irritate the skin.
- Work in areas with plenty of ventilation. Inhaling gasoline and degreasers can make you sick. Some solvents are heavier than air with more vapors at floor level. Fresh air will keep you from getting light-headed or ill from working under your vehicle.



Always wash your hands with soap and water after working on your vehicle, especially before eating food or playing with your children.

Follow These Oil Change Tips

- Change the oil after the vehicle has been running a while. Oil drains better when warm. Apply your parking brake and block the wheels before getting under the vehicle.
- Remove the drain plug from the bottom of the oil pan and allow the oil to drain into your drain pan for approximately 20 minutes.
- Loosen the oil filter, drain, and place it in a leak-proof container (for example, a coffee can with a lid or resealable plastic bag).
- Install the new oil filter, reinstall and tighten the drain plug, and add new oil. Do not overfill. Run the engine for a few minutes to let the new oil lubricate the parts. Check the oil level, and around the filter and drain plug areas for a leak. Record the date, mileage and the type of oil you installed.
- Pour the used oil into a suitable container for recycling at businesses accepting used motor oil or at City-sponsored collection events.
- Many retail outlets sell reusable collection containers with a grid for draining both the oil and the oil filter. Using them eliminates the need to transfer the drained oil to a separate container and reduces the chance of a spill.
- Keep absorbent materials such as oil pads or kitty litter on hand to clean up oil spills.

Practice Proper Disposal

Improper disposal of hazardous wastes is a very real threat to individuals and the environment, and it's a crime. You wouldn't want your children or pets walking through spilled oil, or battery acid in your garage or



on the street. Practicing proper disposal of auto products can help you protect loved ones. Preventing oil stains or pitted concrete caused by battery acid corrosion will enhance the appearance of your neighborhood.

A variety of legal disposal options are available. The City sponsors one-day collection events, and many private businesses accept one or more recyclable auto products.



bring in your used motor oil. Dozens of businesses within the city of San Diego participate in this program making recycling used motor oil available in all areas. Many locations accepting used motor oil also accept oil filters. Call **235-2105** for locations near you.

Undamaged auto batteries can be returned to businesses selling batteries, as required by State law. Ask about the used battery return policy the next time you make a purchase.

If you are looking for one-stop service to recycle these auto products, you may bring them to one of the City-sponsored auto product recycling events or to the Miramar Recycling Center at 5165 Convoy Street.

The leftover or used auto products from other Do-It-Yourself auto maintenance work are not recyclable, and need to be disposed as household hazardous waste. You may bring recyclable and other automotive products to City-sponsored household hazardous waste collection events.

Call the City's Household Hazardous Materials Hotline at **235-2111** or the Used Oil Infoline at **235-2105** for further information.

Recycle What You Can

Used motor oil presents a major recycling opportunity. In California, one in every five families changes their own motor oil. San Diegans are recycling their motor oil - more than 140,000 gallons this past year. You can too.

Used motor oil, including oil from the oil filter, and antifreeze are recycled into new products. The rerefined oil meets the same requirements as other oil. Mercedes-Benz puts rerefined oil in every new car it manufactures. The metal in oil filters is made into rebar for construction use. The lead and acid in auto batteries are converted into other products.

The key to successful used motor oil recycling is keeping it separate from other fluids. You want to add only motor oil to your engine, and recyclers need uncontaminated oil to make the recycling process work.

In California, you pay a \$0.04 per quart fee on purchases of motor oil. The State authorizes businesses, called certified centers, to refund this fee or offer a coupon of greater value when you

Sponsored by
The City of San Diego Environmental Services and
Metropolitan Wastewater Departments and the
California Integrated Waste Management Board.



THE HOME ENVIRONMENT No. 4 OF A SERIES



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The City of San Diego Household Hazardous Materials Program

- Household Hazardous Materials Program Hotline..... 235-2111 (All other areas)..... 1-(800) 246-1233
- Used Oil Infoline..... 235-2105
- Recycling Hotline: Paper, Glass, Cans..... 467-0903 (All other areas)..... 1-(800) 237-2583
- Paint for Graffiti Removal
- Paint Exchange Bank 527-3431 (All other areas)..... 1-(800) 246-1233

Health Information

- Emergencies..... 911
- Poison Control Center..... 543-6000
- Indoor Air Pollution:
- American Lung Association..... 297-3901

Reporting Hazards

- Air Emissions:
- Air Pollution Control District..... 694-3340
- Oil-Burning, Smoking Vehicles..... 1-(800)-28-SMOKE
- Illegal dumping of hazardous waste:
- County Dept. of Environmental Health..... 338-2284
- Storm Water Pollution Hotline..... 533-3793
- Pesticides:
- County Agricultural Commissioner..... 694-2739

The City of San Diego
Household Hazardous Materials Program
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